



the Louisiana Director's CONTRACTOR NEWS SOURCE

An Official Quarterly Newsletter for Louisiana Licensing Board For Contractors

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2006

Contractor Licensing Board Staff Challenged By Storms

Licensing Board staff geared up for and tackled an overwhelming onslaught of contractor applications in the months following hurricanes Katrina and Rita. For the twelve months ended December 2004, the Board received 2,400 contractor applications. In comparison, for the five and one-half month period from September 1, 2005 through February 14, 2006, the Board received 2,721 applications. In addition to this increased volume of applications, the Board's renewal season began November 1, 2005 and added the annual surge of contractor paperwork necessary to renew 17,000+ existing contractor licenses. The Board's customer service lobby appeared to be the place for every contractor to be in the aftermath of the storms.

As you can imagine, our staff's friendliness, cooperation, morale, frustration levels, and public goodwill were challenged for several months as they strove to complete their agency's mission. Executive Director Chuck Marceaux and Board Administrator Joy Evans worked closely with staff to expedite processes, simplify procedures, modify work assignments, and schedule overtime for critical processes to

achieve mission success. All of these efforts, however, did not stem the tide of volume or the frustrations of the contractors applying for licenses, requesting expedited licensing, or just needing to talk to someone. Our telephone volume increased from a normal 20,000 calls per month to an excess of 60,000.

The statistics seen in the related chart within this article gives you a small degree of insight to the mountain of work that needed to be communicated, accomplished, and at the same time remain within the limits of the law.

Ms. Evans and I are extremely proud of our staff's ability to perform under these abnormal conditions, and believe that we have learned a lot of things about service and the charac-

ter of our employees. We wish to thank all the contractors and the public involved for their patience with our efforts to complete the processing of their applications and renewals. We wish all of you success in your contracting endeavors.

CONTRACTOR APPLICATION STATISTICS POST KATRINA AND RITA

[SEPTEMBER 1, 2005 - FEBRUARY 14, 2006]

NEW APPLICATIONS		NEW LICENSES ISSUED	
Commercial	1291	Commercial	650
Home Improvement	709	Home Improvement	442
Residential	522	Residential	261
<u>Mold Remediation</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>Mold Remediation</u>	<u>78</u>
Total	2,721	Total	1,431

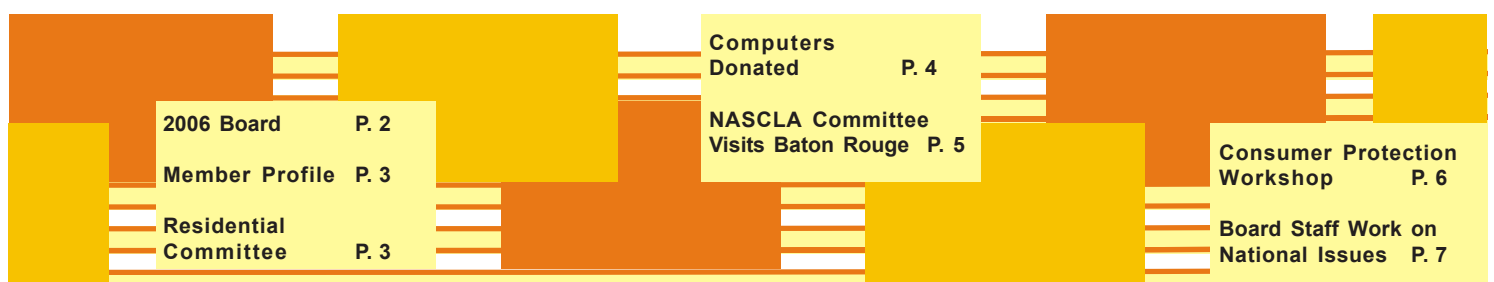
LOUISIANA CONTRACTORS VS. OUT OF STATE

Louisiana Applicants	1651	OR	61%
Out Of State Applicants	1070	OR	39%

COMPARATIVE FROM JANUARY 1ST, 2004 THRU DECEMBER 31ST, 2004

NEW CONTRACTOR LICENSES ISSUED

Commercial	1398
Residential	278
Home Improvement	652
<u>Mold Remediation</u>	<u>72</u>
Total	2,400 or 247% increase current pace



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CONTRACTOR NEWS SOURCE

Governor

Honorable Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

Board Members

Byron E. Talbot, *Chairman*

AGC - Third Congressional District

Victor Weston, *Vice Chairman*

AGC - Sixth Congressional District

Donald G. Lambert, *Secretary/Treasurer*

AGC - First Congressional District

Phyllis Adams

AGC - Third Congressional District

Tara Brown

ASA - Sixth Congressional District

George Crain, Jr.

Oilfield Contractors Association

Seventh Congressional District

Don P. Descant

AGC - Fifth Congressional District

Nelson "Andy" Dupuy, Jr.

ABC - Sixth Congressional District

Art Favre

ABC - Sixth Congressional District

David R. Gallo

Mechanical Contractors Association

First Congressional District

Jonathan Holloway

Member-at-Large - Sixth Congressional District

Garland Meredith

NECA - Fifth Congressional District

Bert Wilson

Louisiana Asphalt Association

First Congressional District

Kirk Williams

Member-at-Large - Sixth Congressional District

Residential Building Committee

Tara Brown, *Chair*

David R. Gallo, *Vice Chair*

Patrick Colvin, *Member*

Richard M. Darling, Jr., *Member*

Susan R. Pellegrin, *Member*

Ronald Perrin, *Member*

Johnny Reeves, *Member*

Regional Compliance Area Supervisors

Randel Douget, *Southwest LA*

Brent Templet, *Southeast LA*

Kathrine Gardner, *North LA*

Lynwood Allemore, *South LA*

Larry Holligan, *Central LA*

Office Personnel

Charles G. Marceaux, *Executive Director*

Joy Evans, *Administrator*

Chris Ourso, *Executive Staff Officer*

Pat Neyrey, *Board Secretary*

Mark Williamson, *Compliance Director*

Leonard Servat, *Examinations*

Emma Payne, *Commercial Application*

Bertha Jenkins, *Residential Application*

Kelli Gautreaux, *Accounting*

Beth Scroggs, *Human Resources/Contracts*

The Louisiana Director's Contractor News Source is published quarterly by the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors

2006 Licensing Board



Top Row (L to R): Jimmie Cascio (*deceased*), Don Descant, Garland Meredith, David Gallo, Kirk Williams, Bert Wilson, Jonathan Holloway, and Nelson "Andy" Dupuy, Jr.

Bottom Row (L to R): Art Favre, Tara Brown, Vic Weston, Byron Talbot, Donald Lambert, Phyllis Adams, and George Crain, Jr.



Chuck Marceaux, Executive Director



Joy Evans, Board Administrator

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Lake Charles

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Donald Lambert, Secretary/Treasurer

Donald Lambert is a man who enjoys helping people and working every day. "Life in the construction business has become a hobby and a habit for me," stated Lambert. Following in his grandfather's and dad's footsteps, at the age of 12 Lambert learned to operate a bulldozer, clear land and lay pipe.

Lambert has served on the Licensing Board for the past 33 years - serving in every capacity. For the past seven years he has had the opportunity to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. His vision for the Board is to continue to be consistent in rulings, move the industry forward and improve the public's image of the construction industry.

Lambert, born and raised in New Orleans is one of eleven children. He began his own highway/



heavy construction business in 1956. Over time his business has changed. He now does consulting work. Lambert negotiates changes in construction to help receive the maximum fair price for whoever he represents. He also assists clients with methods of construction.

Lambert has five children (3 boys and 2 girls).

Anyone who meets Lambert sees his love for the construction industry.

Residential Committee of the Board

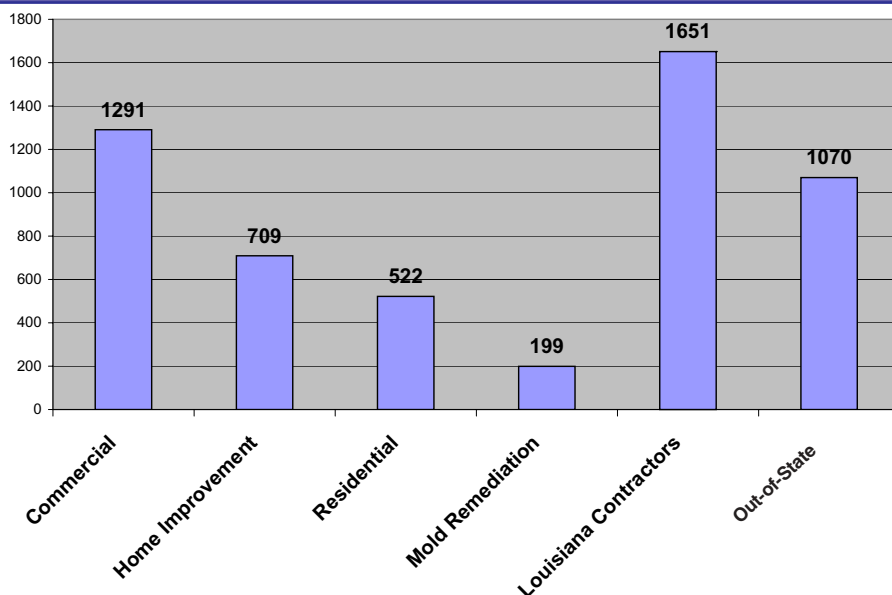
The Residential Building Committee has been in operation exercising its powers and duties regulating residential construction since its advent by statute in 1996. Initially, the Committee was comprised of three committee members appointed by the Governor, with the State Licensing Board assigning an ex-officio Chairman to conduct administrative hearings monthly. With the increase of violations occurring in the state on residential properties, and the possibility of not achieving a quorum to conduct meetings, legislation was passed to add two more members to the Committee representing all seven congressional districts, and that the Board Chairman appoint an ex-officio Chairman and Vice-chairman for the Committee.

The Committee regulates approximately 3,300 residential building contractors and most recently has been given additional responsibility to regulate the addition of some 750 home improvement registrations. These numbers are increasing daily. The Committee hears approximately 250 residential cases per year, and fines are assessed on average about \$150,000 per year for violations of the residential contractor licensing law. A person who constructs a residence for sale or lease to another person, and does not intend to use the residence as a personal residence is in violation of the Louisiana Residential Building Contractor's law if he does not possess a proper contractor's license. This law applies to all new construction residences valued at \$50,000 and above, built in the state of Louisiana.

A person who intends to offer or contracts to perform a residential remodeling or home improvement project valued at or over \$7,500 requires a minimum of a residential home improvement registration issued by the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors.

The challenge for the staff is to discover the contracts, obtain the necessary evidence, which would be able to convict or exonerate the alleged violator, and then prepare the case for an administrative hearing brought before the Board.

Hurricanes Katrina/Rita Contractor Applications Sep 1, 2005 - Feb 14, 2006



NATIONAL NEWS

New Mexico Contributes Computer Equipment to Aid Construction Efforts in Louisiana

The New Mexico Construction Industries Division of Regulation and Licensing has graciously offered and shipped for the benefit of the Louisiana construction industry a quantity of computers and related office equipment to those affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Louisiana State Licensing Board's working relationship with the National Association of State Contractor Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) has prompted several states to make offers of assistance to Louisiana. Many have come to assist our citizens and families to clean-up and restore the quality of life for many since the storm.

The Board has passed a resolution thanking New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, and Ms. Kate Baca, Deputy Director, CID for their compassionate and generous gift for the benefit of the construction industry in Louisiana.

The Board will coordinate this in-kind contribution with the Contractor's Educational Trust Fund for the benefit of the construction industry firms affected by the hurricanes and also for the benefit of the construction industry in the area of contractor education and technology.



Contractor Licensing Board Facilitates Contractor Educational Needs at ABC through the CETF

The Board received a request for assistance from the Associated Builders and Contractors Pelican Chapter, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The project involved the establishment of a skills assessment and apprenticeship program at the ABC

training facility located on Highland Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana which required 12 computers and related support equipment. The Board having received a generous donation of 31 computers and related office equip-

ment from the State of New Mexico coordinated the request to support with Contractor's educational purposes as established by statute.

NASCLA Examination Standards Committee Comes to Baton Rouge

NASCLA members gathered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on January 27th and 28th to layout the organization's infrastructure requirements as test development firms nationwide prepare to develop a National Commercial Building Examination. Members in attendance were Heidi Lincer-Hill from California; Greg Crow, NASCLA President and Arkansas Representative; Kathy LaCroix, from Alabama; George Whalen, Rhode Island; Joe Rogers, Alabama; Leonard Servat, Louisiana; Chuck Marceaux, Louisiana; and Vic Weston, Louisiana. The Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors was one of the original founding states in the National Association of Contractor Licensing Agencies since its inception in 1962. The organization's goals are to promote networking information on issues between states for the better regulation of the construction industry.

Executive Director, Chuck Marceaux, Leonard Servat, the Board's Director of Contractor Testing, and Board Vice-chairman Vic Weston are members of the NASCLA Examination Standards Committee and have been working since 1998 in building the foundation towards achieving a National Examination Program for Commercial Building Contractors. The National Exam is scheduled to be available for use in the 4th quarter of 2006, no later than the 1st quarter of 2007. A commercial building contractor who takes the National Exam and passes it successfully may be waived for such examination in all states who support the NASCLA Approved National Exam. The majority of NASCLA states consisting of 34 states have indicated their support of the program.



NASCLA Tours New Orleans



Vice Chairman Vic Weston serves as personal tour guide in New Orleans areas affected by Hurricane Katrina for NASCLA members who attended a working session meeting in Baton Rouge to draft infrastructure details for the National Contractor Exam. The states represented were California, Rhode Island, Alabama, Arizona, and Arkansas.



Executive Director Speaks at 3rd Annual Consumer Protection Workshop Sponsored by Louisiana's Attorney General Charles C. Foti, Jr.

The Attorney General's office sponsored a workshop to inform consumer protection groups of the latest information relative to contractor licensing laws, insurance issues, and financial issues related to the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Other participants in the program were the Attorney General's office, the Louisiana Mortgage Lenders Association, FEMA, and the Office of Financial Institutions. Those attending the workshop included representatives from the Better Business Bureau, District Attorneys, the Council on Aging, and other consumer advocate groups.

The Board's Executive Director informed the group about the licensing laws for contractors in the state, gave them guidelines for consumers in selecting and hiring a contractor in the state, tips on how to recognize scams and unscrupulous contractors in their areas, and discussed laws and legislative issues regarding the construction industry.

The event was very informative to those attending and the groups were better prepared to communicate with their constituents throughout hurricane affected areas of the state.



The Importance of Construction Education and the Image of the Construction Industry at Large

Now more than ever, Louisiana faces a tremendous need for the professionalism of its future construction contractors to help rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. One practical and specific way that all licensed contractors can help in fulfilling this vision is to make voluntary contributions to Louisiana's three accredited schools of construction, Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, the University of Louisiana Monroe, and the Louisiana Tech in Ruston, Louisiana. The 2004 Louisiana Legislature passed a bill that allows licensed contractors, upon renewal of their contractor licenses, to donate additional voluntary monetary contributions to a public university or community college foundation that offers an accredited, degreed program in the field of construction management. After each fiscal year's audit, the Board remits 100% of the designated contributions collected to each selected university or community college foundation.

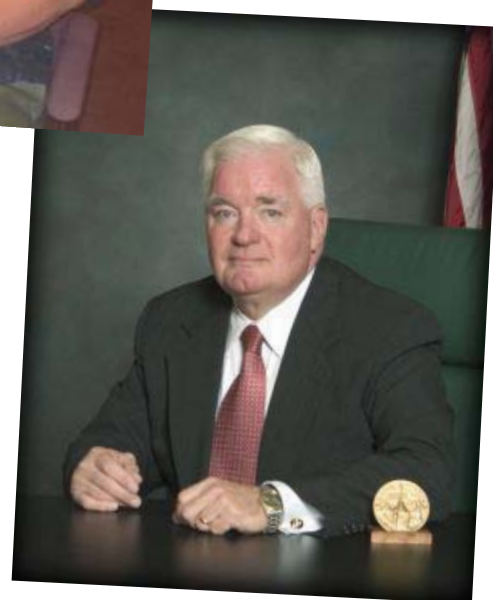
The Board has collected \$37,698 that will be distributed to their designated construction management programs. Last year the Board received approximately \$35,000. The Louisiana State Licensing Board encourages and applauds your generosity and commitment to the future graduates of Louisiana's accredited Schools of Construction Management Programs. Help your industry build its future by investing in this way. **Thank you!**

Licensing Board Staff Work On National Issues

The National Association of State Contractor Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) has recently elected Executive Director Chuck Marceaux to serve as its National Treasurer and Executive Committee member. Marceaux also serves as a NASCLA Board Member and Chairman of NASCLA's Fiscal Policy and Procedures Committee. Since 1997, he has served in all elected chairs including serving as NASCLA's National President in 2001.

Board Vice-Chairman Vic Weston of Baton Rouge has also been appointed to serve a second term as a member of NASCLA's National Examination Standards Committee, along with Mr. Leonard Servat, the Licensing Board's Director of Testing and Examination.

NASCLA was formed as a non-profit corporation. Its membership is comprised of states that have enacted laws regulating the business of contracting. It is dedicated to the mutual assistance of those states in striving for the better regulation of the construction industry to protect the safety and welfare of the general public.



The Association's objectives are to:

1. Promote the protection of the public health and safety through the licensing of contractors.
2. Provide a forum for the discussion of problems common to the regulation of the construction industry and to develop solutions.
3. Assist licensing agencies in developing licensing laws and rules.
4. Provide a clearinghouse for information concerning court decisions, attorney general opinions and disciplinary proceedings.
5. Provide technical assistance in the development of licensure classification systems.
6. Provide mutual assistance in the standardization of licensing examinations.
7. Provide consultation on office procedures and administration.
8. Educate the public as to the benefit of using licensed contractors.
9. Provide a continuing education program for the construction industry.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON NATIONAL NEWS,
VISIT THE NASCLA
WEBSITE AT
www.nascla.org

*For More Information
on State news visit our
website at
www.lslbc.louisiana.gov*



IF YOU NEED INFORMATION ON CONTRACTORS' LICENSING IN OTHER STATES, YOU NEED

A COPY OF THE **CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSING INFORMATION DIRECTORY**

The 2006 edition identifies over 170 state agencies that regulate the construction industry. The directory summarizes the pre-qualification, licensing, examination, and bonding requirements. Information regarding reciprocity, license classifications, incorporating, and fees is also included.

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